

and education; under the all wise Providence, the secure means of preservation.

The increasing solicitude for the suppression of the Slave trade, which apprehensions all ranks of people; is cause of thankfulness to the common Father of mankind; and encourages us to hope, that the time is approaching, when this nation will be liberated from that infamy.—Let us in the mean time, continue, with unabating ardour, to be intercessors for the greatly injured Africans.

We conclude with expressing our comfort, that notwithstanding the many weaknesses that prevail, numbers of our beloved youths are preserved in faithfulness, to whom the gracious Lord has extended, and is continuing to extend, the visitations of his light and love; whereby there is reason to hope, that they will grow up in usefulness, and become a succession of testimony-bearers to the truth. That they may in humility receive the saving help, and, by obedience to the pointing of the divine hand, consume fleshless to the end, where the price incalculable is to be obtained, is the fervent wish of our spirits.

Signed in and in behalf of the Yearly Meeting, by
WILLIAM JEPSON.
Clark to the Meeting this year:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By his EXCELLENCE
JOHN HANCOCK Esquire,
Governor of the Commonwealth of
MASSACHUSETTS.

A Proclamation,

For a Day of Public THANKSGIVING.

IT being the inescapable duty of a People believing in the over-ruled Providence of GOD, upon all proper Occasions, unfeignedly to make their grateful Acknowledgments to HIM, not only for HIS common Blessings—but especially for the distinguishing Favours, which HE may at any Time see meet to confer upon them:

I HAVE THEREFORE THOUGHT FIT, by and with the Advice of Council, to appoint THURSDAY, the Twenty-seventh Day of November next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, as a Day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE—Calling upon Ministers and Christians of every Denomination, to assemble on that Day, and devoutly to offer to Almighty GOD, a Sacrifice acceptable to HIM, through the Merits of JESUS CHRIST; expressing their warmed Gratitude for all HIS favours: Particularly that he has been pleased to continue to us so great a measure of Health:—That HE has caused the earth to yield her increase so plentifully, as that we are supplied with the Necessaries and Comforts of Life:—That HE has prospered our Agriculture, Commerce, Navigation and Fisheries: And that we enjoy, not only our civil Right and Liberties—but that great and important blessing, the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST; and that together with the greatest feelings of their hearts, they join the penitent confession of their Sins, and the sincere obedience of their Lives:—humbly imploring the Continuance of HIS Blessings; and that he would be graciously pleased to direct and proffer the Administration of Government, not only in this Commonwealth, but in the several States in our Union:—affording HIS influence in the ensuing elections, in such Manner, as that their Union and Prosperity may be promoted and confirmed; and above all that HE would revive the Spirit of Christianity in all nations professing the same, and that the Spiritual Kingdom of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST may be continually increasing, until the whole Earth shall be filled with HIS GLORY.

And it is earnestly recommended that all Labour and Recreation unsuitable to the solemnities of that DAY, be suspended.

G I F T S at the COUNCIL - CHAMBER in BOSTON, this Twenty-ninth Day of October, in the year of our LORD, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-Eight, and in the Thirteenth Year of the INDEPENDENCE of the United States of AMERICA.

John Hancock.

By his Excellency's Command,
With the advice and consent of the Council,
JOHN AVERY, Jun. Secretary,
GOD save the Commonwealth of
MASSACHUSETTS.

T A N G I E R S. (Mauritius) July 24.

The Southampton, an English frigate, left this place yesterday, with the Emperor's answer.—Every thing has been accommodated with the English, and remains as before, their ships appear as usual for grain, and other productions for the country.

E L A S N E U R (a port town of the island of Zealand; subject to the Danes) August 12.

The Russians have been long accosted to obtain provisions at Helsingør, and in Scania, for which they always paid ready money. On landing for that purpose, in the vicinity of a village called Rask, wholly inhabited by fishermen, they were suddenly fired upon by a firing-party of Swedish Guardsmen. On this the Russians took their boats, but soon after returned with several gallows, each manned with 160 men, and strongly mounted by frigates. On a signal being given by the discharge of a gun from Admiral's ship to fire to, and presently reduced the village, almost the whole village. The wretched inhabitants have since applied to Helsingør for assistance and protection, but in vain, the garrison of that town being in a weak state, and unable to defend itself, though in danger of experiencing a similar fate. Every day a number of families are arriving here from Helsingør, in order to avoid the threatening fury of the Russian arms.

S T O C K H O L M (Sweden) August 8.

The repatriation from the Russians in the night of the 1st of July, and their two frigates, Jarl and Hector, are arrived here. To-morrow they are to be shown in publick before the royal Castle, after which they are to be carried to the arsenal, to be guarded, with others already there. The King sent a letter to the Senate, when he congratulates them on the victory, which he attributes first to God, and next to general valour of the troops and seamen.

He mentions his brother and other officers in the highest terms, but hopes the Senate will not think he does this, "as one brother exalting another; but in order to exalt his subjects to adore God; he induces a sense of thanksgiving for the victory; which he deems may be immediately granted and tends to all the confidories for the Ministers to read in their churches, with a proper exhortation, & afterwards to sing the accustomed psalm of thank."

L I O N D O N, August 9.

The Russian navy has been represented as very little superior to those of either the Swedes or Danes.—This is very far from the truth, at the attention which the Empress has paid to her marine in the reign of about twenty years, it has been such as to make it nearly as great a match in point of numbers to both Denmark and Sweden united. Fifty sail of the line is the lowest calculation.

August 18. It has been mentioned in some of the publick prints, that the American legislation is at present but a mere experiment, and that is entirely deficient in point of discipline; but it is correspondent, who is not long removed from that executive continent informs us, that when the federal government shall be adopted by all the states, which in all probability has taken place before now, such abilities have been shown in the formation of it, to point it its system, and such a knowledge of ancient and modern legislation pervades the whole of it, that bids fair to a government which will probably remain very long unbroken.

The principal leading feature in the new federal government lately adopted by the United States of America, is to enlarge the powers of Congress, and to make that body considerably more efficient than it hitherto has been. For the same correspondent observes the authorities essential to the care of the common defence are these: To raise armies—to build and equip fleets—to prescribe rules for the government of both to direct their operations—to provide for their support. Those powers ought to exist without limitation; because it is impossible for force or force the extent, variety and the means which may be necessary to accomplish them. The circumstances that endanger the safety of a nation are infinite; and for this reason no constitutional shackles can wisely be imposed upon the power to which the care of it is committed. This power ought to be co-extensive with all the possible combinations of such circumstances, and ought to be under the direction of the same counsels which are appointed, to provide over the common defence.

E L I Z A B E T H - T O W N, Octo. 22.

A Comet for some days past has appeared in the North East. It rises about three o'clock in the morning, and is visible to the naked eye, which gives an excellent opportunity for observation, and an accurate observer may make discoveries of these surprising stars hitherto unknown.

Mr. John Hogan, at Ringwood, Bergen county, has a bitch nine months old, that never had a whelp, but has so attached to a litter of kittens, and they to her, as to stifle them completely; and appears to have sufficient quantity of milk for their nourishment. And what is singular, separate them and put the kittens to their natural parent, they appear very discontented: and new inconstancy until they find the bitch again.

We find that the Slave Laws of Jamaica have been revised and several regulations made in favour of the Negroes. The Assembly passed an act which contains the following reforms:

If every possessor of a slave is prohibited from turning him away when incapacitated by age or sickness, but must provide for him whole-some necessities of life, under a penalty of ten pounds for every offence. Ed. Every person who mutilates a slave, shall pay a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, and be imprisoned not exceeding twelve months; and in very atrocious cases, the slave may be declared free. Ed. Any person wantonly or bloody minded killing a slave, shall suffer death. 4th. Any person whipping,

bruising, wounding, or imprisoning a slave not his property, nor under his care, shall be subject to fine and imprisonment. 5th. A parochial tax to be raised in the support of negroes disabled by sickness and having no owners.

N E W - Y O R K, October 28.

Capt. Manchester, in the sloop *Suffolk*, arrived at Baltimore, after a passage of 28 days from Providence. On the 24th ult. off Cape Henry, met with a heavy gale of wind at N. E. which drove him to land. On the 26th in lat. 72° 15' long. 75° 30' he fell in with a wreck, which he supposed to be a New England built vessel. She was a brigantine, about 160 tons burthen, with black bottom and white. Her appearance was first intended for a sloop, having her partners for the masts remaining, and the plank for where the main hole was cut. Both her masts were broken, and no person on board. She appeared to have been laden with salt, which was melted. Capt. Manchester took out of her two rudders, one anchor, and a gun of running rigging.

Paragraphs from a late report to Congress,
of the Ordnance department.—This branch of the department of war is important, and interesting to the Union.

The ordnance, arms, ammunition, and all the numerous appendages and complex apparatus belonging thereto, in possession of the United States, are highly valuable, and require an incessant attention to their preservation.

The places where they are deposited are as follows:—Providence in Rhode Island—Springfield in Massachusetts—Mohawk river—West Point on Hudson's river—Philadelphia—New London and Manchester.

The principal arsenals are at Springfield, West Point and Philadelphia.

The arms at Springfield are new and in excellent order—the Secretary at War having had the whole to pieces, cleaned and placed in racks prepared for the purpose.

The powder at Springfield and West Point, which places include the greatest quantities in possession of the publick is in excellent order; great attention has been annually paid to this article; in having it aired, cleaned, prepared and well packed, and also turned frequently.

The ordnance and military stores at the several arsenals are under the charge of store-keepers, or deputy commissioners of military stores, at the following rate.

Springfield—One deputy Commissary } 400
at 40 dollars per month,
One Assistant, 15 dollars per do. 180

Providence—One Store-keeper, 8 do. 96

West Point—One deputy Commissary } 480
at 40 dollars per month,

Fort Herkimer, and the Mohawk river—One Store-keeper } 480
at 32 dollars per month.

Philadelphia—One Commissary of military stores, at 41 and 64 dollars per month.

Several bills, respecting paupers, &c. were read.—*[These will be noticed when completed.]*

On motion of Mr. Brock, a bill was referred to the Hon. Gen. Knox, Minister at War, to hear the debates, when it is his pleasure to do.

F R I D A Y, October 31.

Read and committed several petitions, &c. among them, a petition from the Adventurers in the North-Mills Lottery, praying the Legislature to grant them a Lottery to defray the losses they have sustained, from said Mills Lottery not having been drawn, &c.

Several bills, respecting paupers, &c. were read.—*[These will be noticed when completed.]*

On motion of Mr. Brock, a bill was referred to the Hon. Gen. Knox, Minister at War, to hear the debates, when it is his pleasure to do.

F R I D A Y, October 31.

Read and committed a number of private petitions, &c. Among them one of Josiah Barton, stating that his wife had joined herself to a religious sect, called Shakers, and became conscientiously opposed to a married state, and had left his bed and board, and therefore praying, that he might be divorced.—Committee reported leave to withdraw.

A bill for repealing a clause in the Impost Act, prohibiting the importation of certain articles, and laying a duty of 15 per cent ad valorem thereon, read a first

and a second times.

Concurrent with the Hon. Senate in a Resolve for adjourning the Supreme Judicial Court, which was to have been held at Salem, on the first Tuesday in November, to the third Tuesday of December next.

A message was received from his Excellency the Governor, acquainting the Hon. House that he intended to have addressed them this day, but was prevented by indisposition of body—that he had directed the Secretary to lay before the Legislature the publick paper received in the recess, and that he would address the Court as his health would admit.

Among the papers communicated by his Excellency, were

A resolve of Congress of Sept. 15, 1788, for organizing the new federal government, and a resolve of

Sept. 16, 1788, which was committed.—*[By accents communicated it is shown that the total of the balances due from collectors, &c. is \$209,220 12 1/2—which is payable in current species of paper.]*

T U E S D A Y, Nov. 4.

On the question, whether the Bill, for taking off the prohibition on certain articles, and laying a duty thereon—*ad pa. 10*—to be engrossed, it passed in the negative.

Mr. Davis, Mr. Bowdoin, Mr. Clarke, Dr. Cony, and Mr. Ames, were appointed a Committee to consider what further measures are necessary to carry into effect the laws prohibiting the importation of certain articles into this Commonwealth and to report.

Read a second time a bill for creating Work-Houses for the reception and employment of idle and indigent persons.

The Court then deferred the consideration of this question, and adjourned to 5 o'clock P.M. then to meet at Faneuil Hall.

At three the Court proceeded, attended by the Sheriff of the County of Suffolk, to Faneuil Hall. The Court being opened by proclamation, the court for Mr. Greenleaf retained the motion for postponing the trial, for the reasons before-mentioned—the agents in behalf of the House of Representatives, objected to the trial at the commencement of a session.

Mr. Haskew, Mr. Parsons and Mr. Back, on the part of the house, were appointed a Committee to consider what publick business may be necessary to be acted in the General Court, the ensuing session.

T U E S D A Y, October 30.

Read and committed several petitions, &c. among them, a petition from the Adventurers in the North-Mills Lottery, praying the Legislature to grant them a Lottery to defray the losses they have sustained, from said Mills Lottery not having been drawn, &c.

The Court then proceeded by the Sheriff of the County of Suffolk, returned to the Senate Chamber.

The Hon. House of Representatives, preceded by their Speaker, went in procession to Faneuil Hall, in order to attend the trial.

N O R T H A M P T O N, Nov. 1.

A motion was lately made in the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, for recommending the anti-slavery letter from the Convention of New York, signed by Gov. Clinton, to the attention of the next assembly.

After a short debate, the motion was negatived, by 28 against 23. May that letter meet with similar treatment as this Court was the first Court in the Commonwealth.—The Court however agreed to postpone the trial to Tuesday next, to 10 o'clock, and adjourned to that time; then to meet at Faneuil Hall.

The Court then, proceeded by the Sheriff of the County of Suffolk, returned to the Senate Chamber.

The Hon. House of Representatives, preceded by their Speaker, went in procession to Faneuil Hall, in order to attend the trial.

A communication from the Committee of the House of Commons, concerning the mode of adjudging in this case, was referred to the joint ballot.

2. That the Electors meet on the first Wednesday of February, in the town of Bolton, for the purpose of voting for President and Vice-President; and for their time and travel receive the same compensation as Members of the Senate are intitled to.

3. That the Senators be chosen by the two Houses of the Legislature, each having a negative upon the other.

4. That the Commonwealth be divided into eight districts, the inhabitaants of each of which shall be authorized to choose one Representative.

5. That each district be formed in such manner as to comprehend one eighth part of the polls in the Commonwealth, as nearly as may be, without dividing counties.

6. That the county of Suffolk form one district;

Essex, one; Middlesex, one; Hampshire and Berkshire, one;

Plymouth and Barnstable, one; York, Cumberland and Lincoln, one; Bristol, Dukes, Coventry, and Worcester, one; and the county of Worcester, one.

That preceps issue to the towns in the several districts to vote on the — day of — for their respective Representatives, and to return lists of the votes to

the eye of the beholder with pleasure, which is greatly increased when it is put into motion—and (although the first attempt of kind is greater) the European ones of the same size, and double the price. Every real friend to the advancement of Arts in this infant country, must rejoice at their rapid progress within a very few years, and consider the present piece of ingenuity to be of great importance, and worthy the attention of all our populous towns.

N E W - H A V E N, October 23.

Last Friday evening about 7 o'clock a meteor was seen passing through the atmosphere from N. E. to S.W. with amazing velocity. The editor of this paper saw it during its passage over 60 or 70 degrees, and its nucleus appeared as large as the moon in the meridian. The tail was of a different length in different parts of its course, varying from five to seven diameters of its nucleus. A report like that of heavy, distant thunder, was heard about three minutes after it disappeared. The altitude of the object is judged to be about forty miles.

The late Pres't Clap's opinion of this meteor was that "They are solid bodies, half a mile in diameter revolving round the earth in long ellipses, their least distance being about 20 or 30 miles; by their friction upon the atmosphere they make a constant rumbling noise, and collect electrical fire, and when they come near the earth or collide after being thus overcharged, they make an explosion as loud as a large cannon." Any observations made on this meteor will be gratefully received by the printer hereof, who will endeavor to communicate in some future paper a more accurate account.

B O S T O N, November 3.
Sketch of Business in the General Court.

W E D N E S D A Y, October 29, 1788.

A QUORUM of both Branches being assembled, the Legislature proceeded to the business of arrangement, usual at the commencement of a session.

Mr. HASKEW, Mr. PARSONS and Mr. BACK, on the part of the house, were appointed a Committee to consider what publick business may be necessary to be acted in the General Court, the ensuing session.

T H U R S D A Y, October 30, 1788.

Read and committed several petitions, &c. among them, a petition from the Adventurers in the North-Mills Lottery, praying the Legislature to grant them a Lottery to defray the losses they have sustained, from said Mills Lottery not having been drawn, &c.

Several bills, respecting paupers, &c. were read.—*[These will be noticed when completed.]*

On motion of Mr. Brock, a bill was referred to the Hon. Gen. Knox, Minister at War, to hear the debates, when it is his pleasure to do.

M O N D A Y, Nov. 3.

Acted upon a number of private petitions.

A Committee, of Mr. Brock, Mr. Whitney, Mr. Haskew, Mr. Rusel, (Bolton) and Mr. Fowler, (West Point) was raised to consider what provision may be necessary for the support of the Lieut. Governor, and to report.

A bill was introduced by the Sheriff of the County of Suffolk, to the effect that the Treas'r, accompanied with an account of the balances due, etc. from Collectors and Sheriffs, on the 1st of October 1788—which was committed.—*[By accents communicated it is shown that the total of the balances due from collectors, &c. is \$209,220 12 1/2—which is payable in current species of paper.]*

T U E S D A Y, Nov. 4.

On the question, whether the Bill, for taking off the prohibition on certain articles, and laying a duty thereon—*ad pa. 10*—to be engrossed, it passed in the negative.

Mr. Davis, Mr. Bowdoin, Mr. Clarke, Dr. Cony, and Mr. Ames, were appointed a Committee to consider what further measures are necessary to carry into effect the laws prohibiting the importation of certain articles into this Commonwealth and to report.

Read a second time a bill for creating Work-Houses for the reception and employment of idle and indigent persons.

A communication from the Committee of the House of Commons, concerning the mode of adjudging in this case, was referred to the joint ballot.

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That preceps issue to the towns in the several districts to vote on the — day of — for their respective Representatives, and to return lists of the votes to

Wells, Mr. Bishop—Mr. Davis, Mr. Bowdoin, Mr. Rusel, Mr. Gore, Mr. Heath.]

To consider the requisition of Congress for 1788, &c. and to report. [Committee—Mr. Davis, Mr. Grant, Mr. Baker, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Fowler.]

To consider the communications made to this Commonwealth from the State of Virginia and New-York, respecting amendments to the Federal Constitution, and to report. [The Committee—Mr. Chase, Mr. Grant, Mr. Gor, Mr. Hendlow, Mr. Heath.]

ORGANIZATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

A short conference called on the question for appointing a committee for considering the mode of federal election, &c. in which

The Hon. Gen. Heath observed, that the subject on which the Committee were report, was of the utmost magnitude to the people of the United States—and that probably the Committee might want to know the sense of the House on the subject. The worthy Gentleman added, that it had been made a question—whether the People at large were to choose the electors of President, &c. and that the electors of President, &c. were to be chosen from such districts, as were to be formed by the State legislatures.

8. That one Elector be chosen out of each district entitled to elect a Representative, and that the two remaining Electors be chosen in any part of the State.

The foregoing Report was read and accepted by the Hon. Senate, and sent down to the House for concurrence.

WEDNESDAY, November 5.

A message was received from the Governor upon the subject of the Mint, by which it appeared that the expenses of the Buildings amount to £. 677 11 2/-

Expenses of conducting the business 1026 15 4/-

Amount of Stock expended 431 19 0

Amount of Coin struck of 213 5 7

Amount of Coin struck of 939 0 0

W h i c h l e a v e s a b a l a n c e e q u a l t o £. 1197 5 7

Committed to Mr. Mason, Mr. Choate, and Mr. Spooner.

The House, assented Thursday, 10 o'clock, for considering the judicial system reported by the revising committee, and voted to recommit themselves into a committee of the whole house upon that occasion.

This day the High Court for the trial of impeachments, met at the Senate Chamber for